

AG Hearing
Public Hearing-Cerberus/Holy Family Hospital
June 29, 2010

Good evening,

My name is Gregory Christie. I am the Director of Emergency Services at Holy Family Hospital here in Methuen. I am a life long resident of Andover and North Andover. My family represents three generations of "Andoverites" dating back to 1930. Every member of my family has experienced the exceptional medical care and treatment provided by Holy Family Hospital over the past 60 years. Holy Family has shared in my family's history from life's joyful beginning to life's end. We have been grateful for the exceptional care we have received over the many years.

I support the sale of Caritas to Cerberus, as this will provide the resource Holy Family Hospital needs to continue with its legacy of exceptional medical care and service to our community.

From an Emergency Department perspective:

With today's health care demand out-weighting provider supply the modern day emergency room has become the de facto primary care provider in addition to providing emergency services. Holy Family Hospital's Emergency Department now treats about 42,000 patients a year, nearly twice the number the present emergency department space was built for back in the 1970's. Our new Emergency Department, which is presently underway, will provide our Merrimack Valley community with a state of the art facility, that places emphasis on patient and family comfort/care including 34 private exam rooms outfitted and designed to provide for comfortable privacy while equipped with cardiac monitoring capability. Our plan includes a designated pediatric service area, a state of the art CT Scanner, laboratory, radiology and a planned outpatient pharmacy to help reduce the time to home and recuperation.

The expansion will help our medical staff at Holy Family Hospital fulfill their Biblical mandate of treating other people the way they expected to be treated with care and comfort. After all, we will all be patients one day.

The increased size and additional staff will allow us to take care of patients who were not being treated before.

Our services to the community will expand as well. Holy Family Hospital is proud to be a Certified Stroke Center. Each year, about 700,000 people nationwide experience a new or recurrent stroke. Recognizing symptoms and acting fast to get medical attention can save a life and limit disabilities. Holy Family's Emergency Department is staffed 24/7 with board-certified emergency physicians and nurses who are also trained in advanced stroke care. We are also affiliation with the Massachusetts General Hospital Telestroke Program.

Our emergency department advanced services also include state-of-the-art care for patients suffering from cardiac events, including the services of our cardiac cath lab on stand-by for our ED.

Holy Family Hospital Emergency Department also takes pride in giving back to the future of health-care by providing clinical, educational, resource and training for our medical students, nursing, paramedics, and EMT students. We also take great pride in participating in community events providing medical coverage and health information. The sale of Caritas to Cerberus is a giant step in the right health-care direction for the Merrimack Valley Community and Holy Family Hospital.

Gregory Christie SAC, PAC, Director of Emergency Services
Caritas Holy Family Hospital, Methuen MA